

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1307

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 8084

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, LA

SUBJECT: FY 1975 LAOS NARCOTICS PROGRAM

REFS: A) STATE 222081

B) VIENTIANE A-102

1. FOLLOWING ARE MISSION COMMENTS CONCERNING EA INTER-AGENCY
NARCOTICS CONTROL (NC) GROUP REVIEW OF FY 1975 LAOS NCAP
PROVIDED REFTEL A:

2. AGRICULTURAL REDIRECTION - MISSION AGREES ENTIRELY WITH
COMMENTS PARA 2/A REFTEL. IN FACT, OUR NCAP CALLS FOR TRAIN-
ING OF TRIBAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORKERS AT USAID-SPONSORED
XIENG NGUEN REDIRECTION TRAINING CENTER LOCATED IN LUANG
PRABANG PROVINCE. THIS PROGRAM IS NOW BEING DISCUSSED WITH
LAO DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE WITH INTENT OF STARTING
TRAINING IN NEAR FUTURE. IN ADDITION, TRIBAL AGRICULTURAL
EXTENSION WORKERS ARE ALREADY WORKING IN TEN "KEY"
VILLAGES AROUND THE PHOU PHA DENG HIGH-ALTITUDE TESTING
CENTER IN HOUA KHONG PROVINCE. CROPS THAT HAVE SHOWN
POTENTIAL THERE AS SUBSTITUTES FOR OPIUM ARE SUBSEQUENTLY
BEING INTRODUCED TO HILLTRIBE FARMERS BY THESE EXTENSION
WORKERS FOR FURTHER TESTING IN A MORE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

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3. MISSION HAS BUDGETED FOR FY 75 APPROXIMATELY 1.5 MILLION DOLLARS FOR RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS FROM INDOCHINA POST-RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE FUNDS, WHILE APPROXIMATELY 35,000 DOLLARS OF NC FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR RELOCATION/RE-SETTLEMENT PURPOSES. NC-FUNDED PROJECTS WILL BE DIRECTED EXCLUSIVELY AT HILLTRIBE FARMERS WHO HAVE ABANDONED OPIUM CULTIVATION, BUT WHO MIGHT RETURN TO THE PRACTICE. THESE FUNDS WILL BE USED TO CLEAR LAND AND TO CONSTRUCT FIELD DIKES, NOT TO PROVIDE EXTENSIVE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE AS THE TERM "VILLAGE RESETTLEMENT" MIGHT SEEM TO IMPLY.

4. WE VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO CCINC POLICY DECISION ON ENTIRE ISSUE OF CROP SUBSTITUTION AS MEANS OF NARCOTICS CONTROL--SINCE, FROM OUTSET OF NCAP PROGRAM IN LAOS, LAO GOVERNMENT HAS INSISTED ON PROJECTS IN FIELDS OF AG REDIRECTION AND ADDICT REHABILITATION AS QUID PRO QUO FOR ITS COOPERATION IN THE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT FIELD.

5. ADDICT DETOXIFICATION - (PARA 2/B REFTTEL) - AS NOTED ABOVE, DETOXIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF ADDICTS FORM A SIGNIFICANT PART OF OUR NCAP. WE THEREFORE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING ASSESSMENT OF THIS PROGRAM BY DR. J. PAUL SMITH.

6. ENFORCEMENT/DEA - WHILE WE HAVE BEEN GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO PHASE-OUT OF GSI, WE FULLY EXPECT LAO NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM TO CONTINUE AT ABOUT ITS PRESENT LEVEL. THUS, WHILE GSI AT SOME POINT DURING THE NEXT YEAR MAY BE DISESTABLISHED, WE ASSUME THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO EXISTING LINE ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (I.E., LAO NATIONAL POLICE, CUSTOMS AND THE MILITARY POLICE), WHICH WOULD REQUIRE CONTINUING SUPPORT IN NARCOTICS FIELD. IN SUCH A SITUATION COMMODITIES PROGRAMMED FOR "GSI" WOULD MERELY BE ALLOCATED TO THE LAO GOVERNMENT AGENCY OR AGENCIES THAT ASSUME THE GSI RESPONSIBILITY IN QUESTION.

7. ENFORCEMENT/CUSTOMS - WE AGREE THAT ADDITIONAL BOAT AND ENGINE FOR LAO CUSTOMS ARE LEAST NEEDED ITEMS AMONG

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PROJECTED CAD COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS, BUT OTHER ITEMS ARE DEEMED THE MINIMUM NECESSARY TO ENABLE IMPLEMENTATION OF DELAYED (BUT PREVIOUSLY APPROVED) PROJECTS TO IMPROVE LAO CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY. NEW CONSTRUCTION AT 15,000 DOLLARS FOR FY 74 AND 10,000 DOLLARS FOR FY 75, WE BELIEVE, IS NEEDED FOR COMPLETION OF FACILITIES WHICH WILL ENABLE LAO CUSTOMS TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND ITS ENFORCEMENT EFFORT IN THE CRITICAL BAN HOUET SAI AREA.

WHITEHOUSE

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